



Zuid-Afrikaanshe Boer Republics

Boervolk Identity Clarification

Purpose

This attachment clarifies the **distinct identity** of the *Boervolk*, separate from broader constructions such as the “Afrikaner” identity. The purpose is to provide historical and cultural evidence supporting the *Boervolk*’s unique status as a people entitled to self-determination under UNDRIP Articles 3, 4, and 33. This clarification underscores the *Boervolk*’s cohesive historical tradition, cultural homogeneity, and self-identification, in contrast to broader groupings that lack these characteristics.

1. Definition of the *Boervolk*

The *Boervolk* is defined as the descendants of Dutch, French, and German settlers who undertook the Great Trek (1835–1840) and established sovereign republics in the 19th century, including the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republic (Transvaal, 1852–1902), Oranje-Vrystaat (1854–1902), and more than 19+ other historical Boer Republics. Key characteristics include:

- A shared historical tradition of independence and frontier life.
- A distinct agrarian and Protestant cultural identity rooted deeply in Biblical principles.

- Self-identification as a cohesive people with a unique relationship with the Almighty Heavenly Father, as expressed in historical vows and governance structures (*Volksraad, Raad van Rigters, Volkshof*).

2. Distinction from the Broader “Afrikaner” Identity

The term “Afrikaner” has been used in the late 19th and 20th century to encompass all Afrikaans-speaking individuals, including white descendants of Cape settlers, Coloured communities, and others. This broader construction lacks the homogeneity required for recognition as a “people” under international law:

- Diversity of composition: The “Afrikaner” includes groups with differing historical trajectories and political loyalties (e.g., Cape Afrikaners who supported British forces during the Anglo-Boer War).
- Lack of historical sovereignty: The broader Afrikaner group never formed independent political entities comparable to the Boer Republics.
- International rejection: Efforts to claim self-determination under the Afrikaner identity have been rejected by the United Nations (1994, 1996, 2005) due to *insufficient cohesion and absence of systemic oppression as a unified group*.

3. Historical Evidence of *Boervolk* Cohesion

- Sovereign republics recognised by international treaties (Sand River Convention 1852, Bloemfontein Convention 1854, U.S. Treaty 1871).
- Unified resistance during the Anglo-Boer War, reflecting collective national aspirations.
- Continuous cultural practices, including faith-based governance and agrarian lifestyle, distinguish the *Boervolk* from other Afrikaans-speaking communities.

4. Impact of Identity Dilution

The subsumption and annexation of Boer identity into the broader Afrikaner construct, particularly under 20th-century nationalism (*Afrikanernasionalisme*), has contributed to cultural erosion and denial of distinct *volkereg*. Also see [Attachment O](#) for evidence of contemporary marginalization of Boer identity through assimilation into broader Afrikaner constructs and control of cultural heritage.

This attachment affirms the *Boervolk*’s right to self-definition and cultural preservation as a sovereign people.

Sources

- SA History Online (2023).
- Cambridge University Press, The Anglo-Boer War (2019).
- ZAB Declaration of Independence of “100 Men” (July 12, 2025).
- Historical records from Boer Republic archives.

This attachment is submitted for historical accuracy and cultural recognition, in a spirit of peace under the guidance of the Almighty Heavenly Father.